

Application SN: 10/658,554  
Amendment Dated: August 24, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of: May 27, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A landscaping tool of the type having a pair of handles each having a cutting end and in pivotal relationship, the improvement comprising:

5 (a) a generally U-shaped branch hook associated with one of the handles whereby the user may open the handles and hold the other handle using the hook to grasp branches and limbs that would otherwise be out of reach[.]  
; and  
10 (b) said branch hook being a flexible material to enable the branch hook to be manipulated through entangled foliage.

2. (Original) The landscaping tool of Claim 1 wherein the tool is a lopping shears.

3. (Original) The landscaping tool of Claim 1 wherein the tool is a pruning shears.

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4. (Currently Amended) The landscaping tool of Claim 1 wherein the said branch hook is detachably secured ~~to the~~ one of said handles.

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5. (Original) The landscaping tool of Claim 1 wherein the hook is formed as a part of the end of the handle opposite the cutting end.

6. (Currently Amended) The landscaping tool of Claim 4 wherein said hook is secured to one of said handles ~~the handle~~ by a detent.

7. (Currently Amended) The landscaping tool of Claim 4 wherein said hook is secured to one of said handles ~~the handle~~ by a clamp.

10 8. (CANCEL)

9. (Currently Amended) The landscaping tool of Claim [[8]] 1 wherein the said branch hook has a integrally formed body which has a bore to receive the end of one handle.

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10. (Original) A landscaping tool comprising:

(a) first and second blades pivotally connected, at least one blade having a cutting edge;

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(b) first and second handles having a proximal end affixed to said respective first and second blades for manual actuation of said blade between an open position and a closed cutting position, said handles having a distal end opposite said proximal end; and

5 (c) a branch hook having a body and a generally U-shaped end, said body defining a bore receiving the distal end of said first handle, said U-shaped end being a flexible material whereby the user may fully open the tool grasping the second handle and engage foliage with the branch hook on the first handle to enable the user to access foliage that otherwise would be out

10 of reach.

11. (Original) The tool of Claim 10 wherein said flexible branch hook is rubber.

12. (Original) The tool of Claim 10 wherein said flexible branch hook is plastic.

15 13. (Original) The tool of Claim 10 wherein said first and second blades are loping blades.